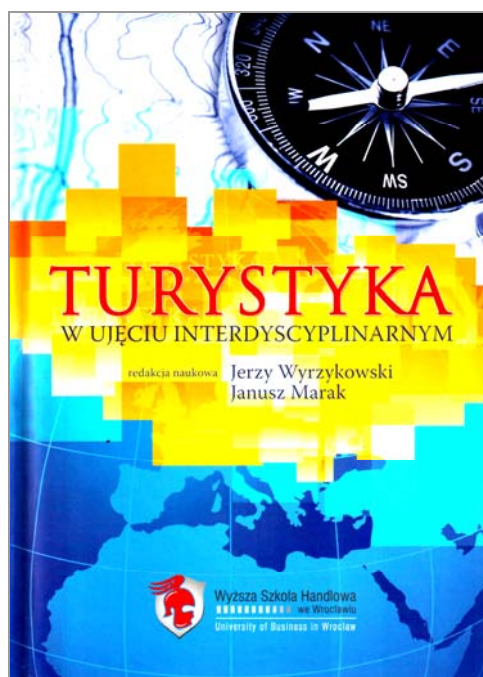


REVIEW

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TURYSTYKA W UJĘCIU INTERDYSCYPLINARNYM
 (An Interdisciplinary Approach to Tourism)
 WYŻSZA SZKOŁA HANDLOWA WE WROCŁAWIU
 WROCŁAW 2010, 592 pp.

The book entitled *Turystyka w ujęciu interdyscyplinarnym* (*An Interdisciplinary Approach to Tourism*) is a collective work by 22 authors representing different disciplines and edited by a geographer J. Wyrzykowski and an economist J. Marak. The very fact that the team of authors consists of geographers, economists, representatives of physical culture, sociologists, psychologists, art historians, spatial planners and lawyers points to the multidisciplinary character of the publication. The editors explain it in the Introduction: 'The title implies the interdisciplinary character of tourism, and individual chapters devoted to important aspects of tourism have been written by representatives of the disciplines to which they are related.'

Apart from a short introduction, the book consists of six large chapters forming independent parts of the work. The element which connects them is tourism as broadly understood, discussed here from different perspectives, as well as the bibliography at the end of the book.

Chapter I, entitled 'Introduction to tourism', was prepared by Wyrzykowski, Marak & Dudy-Seifert. It is a compendium of tourism where the authors discuss the following issues: the object of tourism studies, the

classification of tourism, the history of tourism (an outline), the scale and distribution of tourism, and the income generated by international tourism throughout the world. The chapter closes with digressions on trends in tourism and forecasts for its development in the contemporary world.

The title of this chapter reflects its content, which introduces the reader to the issues of tourism. An interesting feature is Table 1 in which the authors refer to the Accreditation Commission resolution adopted on 2 July 2007, listing the disciplines which partake in the education process at the 'tourism and recreation' university course. Both, the name of the course and the disciplines ascribed to it have a bureaucratic-administrative, formal character, not a factual one, but the fact is that they actually exist, and so may be referred to in discussion(?).

Chapter II is entitled 'Bio-physiological aspects of tourism'. It contains 47 pages and was written by Toczek-Werner and Sołtysik, representing physical culture disciplines. The authors believe that tourism is a human activity oriented towards needs satisfaction, e.g. by travelling to other places and conscious mobility. By discussing the physiological basis of the tourism activity, the authors deal with the physical

capacity, body metabolism during physical effort, oxygen supply to the organism, energy usage, as well as tiredness and relaxation. A very interesting section is the sub-chapter entitled 'Safety factors and conditions in tourism activity', in which the authors discuss the physiological consequences of tourism activity in different natural environments – humid, hot, cold, high altitude and under water.

Further in this chapter the authors discuss the role of tourism activity in maintaining good health and psychological well-being, as well as human activity while taking part in various forms of specialist and health tourism (spa, wellness).

Presenting problems of human physiology is very interesting and most probably extremely useful, because every time they refer to individual people and activities. However, to my mind there are few references to tourism (especially mass tourism) and a lot of references to recreation, which goes beyond the definition of tourism, or is only partly an element of tourism (according to the controversial proposals by Kurek 2007, p. 13).

Chapter III, entitled 'Sociological and psychological aspects of tourism', consists of 25 pages and was written by Klementowski. Sawicki & Zdebski. Defining the object of tourism sociology, the authors stress that it is 'tourism as a social phenomenon'. There are detailed studies of the bonds created during the tourism process, the formation of social groups, the emergence of new social processes ('touristification'), as well as the creation of a tourist identity (the educational aspect of tourism).

Polish sociologists became involved in tourism studies relatively late – only in 1958, when the first article on the topic by Ziemilski appeared. Sociological research in Poland mainly concerns leisure time and how it is used in different social groups. On pages 99–101, the authors present the results of a study of the leisure time spent by the inhabitants of Wrocław, conducted in the first years of the new millennium.

The second part of this chapter is devoted to tourism psychology, which according to the authors 'deals with man as the object of study'. Psychologists often treat sport, recreational and tourism activity jointly, thus making tourist psychology an area of physical culture (p. 105).

A significant research trend in tourism psychology regards the issues of motivation and difficulty in tourism activity, tourism careers and the classification of tourists.

Similar to sociology, psychology has become involved in tourism relatively recently. According to the authors, the first lecture on tourism psychology was given in 1968, at the International Centre of Tourism Studies in Turin.

The largest chapter in the book (203 pages, 38% of the whole text) is Chapter IV, entitled 'Tourism as an economic phenomenon'. In fact it could be an independent course book on tourism economics. The chapter was divided into four parts.

Part 1 – 'The tourism economy' – contains discussions on the range of some terminology (tourism economy or tourism industry?), information about the tourism satellite account for Poland, the multiplier effect in tourism, tourism market and its mechanisms, tourism services and marketing in tourism.

In the second part of Chapter IV, 'The tourism economy on international and national scales', the authors discuss the tourism economy in the European Union, the influence of international organizations on the tourism economy (WTO, WTTC, IATA, etc.) and other issues.

The third part, entitled 'Regional and local tourism economies', is devoted to the tourism economy within a region and a district, and presents tourism organizations which are involved in this activity, e.g. ROT, LOT, PIT, RIJT, PART, PTTK, PTSM, etc.

In the last, fourth part, 'Enterprise as a tourism economic organisation', the authors discuss the features and classifications of tourism enterprises, personnel management, the finances and strategies of tourism enterprises, and finally present selected travel agencies as fundamental tourism enterprises and the hotel as an element of tourism service supply.

The authors of this extremely interesting chapter are Bąkowska-Morawska, Heliak, Jaworska, Jaworski, Konopka-Struś, & Zajęzkowski.

The second largest chapter (146 pages) is Chapter V, entitled 'Tourism as a spatial phenomenon'. It was written by geographers: Dudy-Seifert, Mikołajczak, Werner, Wyrzykowska & Wyrzykowski. Tourism is mostly studied by tourism geographers and the authors discussed the basic terminology referring to tourism geography (I do not understand why it was called 'spatial economy in tourism'), the methods of assessing the tourism attractiveness of the geographical environment, research methods used for studying tourism and tourism development coefficients, tourism infrastructure, the tourist use and development of different types of geographical environment, the basic types of tourism destinations, as well as adjusting geographical assets to the needs of tourism. The chapter lacks discussion of urban tourism (just like the whole work), which currently plays a significant role in tourism, at least in Europe.

The last, sixth, chapter is entitled 'The legal aspects of tourism'. Its author, Marak, wonders whether the term 'tourism law' is appropriate and suggests that the participation of lawyers in tourism studies should be called 'law in tourism', meaning a set of legal norms regulating social relations connected with tourism.

The author discusses Polish tourism legislation, community laws and the legal basis of the functioning of a travel agency, organizing a tourism event, providing an individual tourism service, the cooperation of tourist guides, couriers and travel agencies. The last part of this chapter is devoted to the legal grounds of hotel services.

This chapter is a set of pieces of 'legal advice' on tourism activity as broadly understood and especially tourism economics. It lacks an analysis of the legal regulations concerning tourism space, e.g. the 'Snow Law', discussed in Poland for many years.

The book finishes with a bibliography containing hundreds of titles (17 pages), referred to in the text, a list of laws (3.5 pages) and websites. There are also lists of tables (55), figures (50), photographs (95), as well as several attachments (tables, figures, questionnaires). The last five pages contain an alphabetical index. The book was carefully edited and published in a hard cover. It was reviewed by Professors Krzysztof Mazurski and Aleksander Panasiuk.

The book can be evaluated from several points of view. Firstly, it is a successful attempt to present tourism studies as conducted in several different disciplines. The authors present the theoretical basis, research methods, as well as examples of works by representatives of physical culture disciplines (naturalists and physicians), sociology, psychology, economics, geography and law. It is regrettable that the editors did not establish the size of individual chapters, perhaps on the basis of the research achievements in a given area. Considering this criterion, the greatest achievements in Poland, both as regards the history of research (80 years) and the number of publications, were made by geographers (Jackowski 2010), followed by economists, sociologists (since 1958), psychologists (1968), physicians and lawyers. I am mentioning only the areas presented in the book. It is worth remembering, however, that at the turn of the 21st c. a book edited by Winiarski (1999, 2004) presented a much larger number of disciplines dealing with tourism.

Secondly, the book is a very good compendium of tourism in individual disciplines. This mainly concerns economics and partly geography (I do not understand why geographers hide their achievements under the cover of spatial phenomena – after all, geography is still the most important discipline dealing with space). The chapter on the legal aspects of tourism certainly plays a practical role. Therefore, it is a book which can be recommended to students of tourism and recreation, as well as others interested in the study of tourism.

Thirdly, the book may be important for the long on-going discussion of whether tourism can be regarded as an independent discipline, or whether it is a conglomeration of disciplines about tourism (Liszewski 2010). It should be concluded that the expression 'interdisciplinary approach' in the title points to the fact that the authors tend to support the idea of 'tourism disciplines'. However, I have an impression that the book has a multidisciplinary character rather than interdisciplinary, because at the beginning of each chapter, the authors define the subject and object of study, as if it was different for different disciplines, which in this case are dealing with the same phenomenon – tourism. This only confirms that opinions on the object and subject of study still vary considerably.

Finally, I would like to refer to the 'tourism and recreation' university course, mentioned by the editors in the introduction. Both the name of this specialization and the syllabus are an example of a bad compromise between the representatives of physical education academies and the universities and economics universities in Poland. In practice, tourism and recreation have different objects of study, different aims and different educational possibilities. While physical education academies can and should deal with recreation, which is a part of physical culture, universities have the research potential and interdisciplinary achievements, which allow them to educate future tourism workers. This is confirmed by the fact that the University of Economics in Poznań has opened a new specialization, called 'tourism economics'.

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